caBIG® Enterprise Support Network

Navigating the Road to caBIG® Interoperability

The cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG®) initiative, overseen by the National Cancer Institute Center for Biomedical Informatics and Information Technology (NCI-CBIIT), was conceived to advance basic and clinical research on cancer and to improve clinical outcomes for patients. The initiative has successfully launched key tools, infrastructure, and policy resources that enable individuals and organizations in the cancer community and other domains to be more efficient and innovative. As caBIG® moves into the next phase of development and deployment, the new caBIG® Enterprise Support Network (ESN) will help 21st century biomedical researchers integrate caBIG® tools and infrastructure at their institutions. The ESN represents a major step forward, by authorizing a variety of external organizations, both academic and commercial, to deliver support services in their particular areas of expertise.

The ESN will provide wide-ranging support for caBIG® standards, applications, and infrastructure to individuals, including end users, administrators and IT staff; organizations and institutions of the current caBIG® community; the broader cancer research enterprise, and eventually others in the biomedical community from other domains who can benefit from interoperability. Collectively, the programs of the ESN can help individuals and organizations determine which technologies to adopt or adapt and how to integrate them into their research enterprise.

Through the Enterprise Support Network, all members of the caBIG® community can utilize support services that will help them navigate the road to caBIG® interoperability.

The caBIG® Enterprise Support Network combines two resources that provide diverse expertise and the ability to expedite and increase the integration of caBIG® technology. Made up of **Knowledge Centers** and **Support Service Providers**, this support network provides services and mentoring along the road to adopting caBIG® tools, standards, and infrastructure, or to adapting existing tools to become caBIG® compatible.

Enterprise Support Network Offerings

Knowledge Centers

Knowledge Centers are NCI-supported entities focusing on the specific domains in which they have expertise. Each Knowledge Center provides a centralized, authoritative repository of knowledge and information and Web-based support to facilitate the adoption of caBIG® tools, standards, and infrastructure for that domain.

Knowledge Centers currently support the following domains:

- Tissue/Biospecimen Banking and Technology Tools
- caGrid Technology Tools
- Vocabulary
- Clinical Trials Management Systems
- Data Sharing and Intellectual Capital
- Molecular Analysis Tools

Specific services offered by Knowledge Centers:

- Domain expertise
- Comprehensive and up-to-date installation packages for caBIG® tools
- Technical and end-user documentation
- Fostering open source development of caBIG® tools by the community
- Collection and monitoring of defect reports, feature requests, and end-user requirements

Support Service Providers

Support Service Providers are third party organizations that deliver software application and technical support to end-users and IT professionals. In order to preserve the integrity of the caBIG® trademark, each Support Service Provider is selected by caBIG® based on their ability to meet defined evaluation criteria, including their technical capabilities and biomedical domain expertise. Service contracts are arranged between Support Service Providers and clients on a fee-for-services basis.

Specific services offered by Support Service Providers:

- Help desk support
- Adaptation and enhancement of caBIG®-compatible software applications
- Deployment support for caBIG® software applications
- Documentation and training materials and services

Enterprise Support Network at a Glance (as of June 2008)

Functions	Knowledge Centers	Service Providers
Contribute to community Web site in their domain	●	
Facilitate tool software introduction	●	●
Training and education	●	●
Provide development support and enhancements to caBIG® tools	●	●
Provide help desk and phone support		●
Provide server hosting and maintenance		●
Provide on-site support for deployment		●
Conduct internal assessment of caBIG® deployment		●

Resources

Visit http://cabig.nci.nih.gov/esn/ to learn more about the Enterprise Support Network, or contact caBIGinfo@cancer.gov